

NOTES FROM THE:

Comptroller Officer Assignments

by Capt Ed Leszynski, DSN 665-2304 x3

Here at AFPC, we have finished loading the moves for the summer cycle. Looking at the number of people projected to move in the fall, it is easy to make the observation that all of the vacancies that exist in the financial management career field will not be filled. In fact, this trend will unfortunately continue for the next several years. Another important observation is that the experience level of our military financial managers in the Air Force is dropping significantly. Now that I have mentioned openly what most of you in the business have probably already guessed about the current manning shortfalls, I would like to mention some of the positives I see for the financial management career field. One positive is that there is opportunity for our junior officers to excell. As grade substitution continues, junior officers will have the opportunity to not only manage others early in their career, but compete for important Commander's billets as well.

Another great opportunity I highly encourage all junior officers to consider is the graduate degree program the Air Force sponsors. The Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) at WPAFB has openings for its premier graduate Cost Estimating program. This program is one of the top graduate programs in the country that specializes in cost estimating within a well-rounded acquisition management core. The program is open to all civilian and military who have a minimum college undergraduate GPA of 2.75 and above and GMAT scores of 550 and/or GRE total scores of 1100. (Waivers to these standards are considered on a case-by-case basis.) The program is 18 months, starting in August of each summer, with graduation in late March. The program is an outstanding mix of the latest cost estimating theory and application coupled with AFIT's cutting-edge Acquisition Management program. Military members incur a four-year service obligation upon graduation. Most follow-on assignments are to the following locations, however, other locations are available:

Wright-Patterson AFB OH
Los Angeles AFB CA
Hanscom AFB MA
Air Force Cost Analysis Agency, Arlington VA

If you would like more information on AFIT, please contact Lt Col William Stockman, DSN 785-3636x4796 or Capt Ed Leszynski, DSN 665-2304x3.

One more positive note for the career field is that the FM community will receive a substantial increase in accessions (brand new 2Lts) from the Academy, ROTC, and OTS. It is very important that we place these new officers in positions where they will receive proper training. In addition, it is important to challenge these young officers. They hold the key to the future success of the FM career field. If you believe your organization could support a new accession, please work a request through your MAJCOM representative.

Lastly, even though we have been under the new Air Force Assignment System (AFAS) for over 16 months, there are still individuals who don't understand the different cycle timelines. Below is a chart that depicts the four cycles. It is very important to remember that the MAJCOMs are responsible for determining and submitting their requirements. If you have any questions on the assignment system, please contact Maj Karla Miller, DSN 665-2304x2.

Assignment Timelines			
AFPC			
Requirements Determination	Visibility	Assignment Match	Reporting Date
Nov	Dec	Jan - Mar	Jun - Aug
Feb	Mar	Apr - Jun	Sep - Nov
May	Jun	Jul - Sep	Dec - Feb
Aug	Sep	Oct - Dec	Mar - May